

OCT 07 '96 12:07PM CORP ENG PLANNING DV

P.1/4.

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL HEADER SHEET

For use of this form, see AA 20-11; the preparation agency is 00000

COMMAND/ OFFICE		NAME/ OFFICE SYMBOL	OFFICE TELEPHONE NO. (AUTOVON/COMM.)		FAX NO. (AUTOVON/COMM.)
FROM:					
RICHARD BOE		CELMN-PD-RS	(504) 862-1505		(504) 862-2572
TO:					
TERRY RABOT		USFWS - Lafayette	(318) 262-6662		(318) 262-6663
CLASSIFICATION	PRECEDENCE	NOL. PAGES (Including this Header)	DATE-TIME	MONTH	YEAR
		4	7 th	Oct	96
RELEASER'S SIGNATURE					

REMARKS

As per our telephone conversation Oct 4

THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT LISTED OR PROPOSED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES.

Space Below For Communications Center Use Only

Theresa E. Rabot
ENDANGERED SPECIES COORDINATOR
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA
DATE: 10/9/96

DA FORM 3018-R, JUL 80

DA FORM 3018-R, AUG 72 IS OBSOLETE

USAFPC V2.10

We are preparing to release the feasibility report and draft EIS for the MRGO New Lock and Connecting Channels in the near future. I need to update our threatened and endangered species consultation. As you are familiar with the basic features of the project, I'll explain only some recently added features. An offsite construction yard (Graving Site) has been added for construction of the new lock modules. The graving site is located along the north bank of the MRGO just west of Paris Road (LA 47). The site would be excavated with bucket dredges to form a slip alongside the channel. Other project features include the disposal of dredged material into previously-used MRGO disposal areas and into an area of shallow water as mitigation for impacts of the Graving Site.

We believe the proposed action would not likely affect any species under your purview. We are aware of a West Indian manatee that appeared near the heated outfall of a power plant last year. The power plant is located about 1 mile east of the proposed Graving Site. The likelihood of additional manatees showing up in this area seems very low, since it is outside of their normal range. No aquatic plants suitable for their food source occurs in this vicinity. However, any manatee that may wander into this general area during cold weather could be attracted to the heated outfall of the power plant. Even if that occurred, the project features would be sufficiently distant to cause no impact. I'll be looking forward to your reply.

P.S. I have enclosed a copies of two letters from your office for reference and a map showing the project features discussed above.



United States Department of the Interior

825 Kaliste Saloom Rd.
Brandywine Bldg. II, Suite 102
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508



April 21, 1989

Mr. R.H. Schroeder, Jr.
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

This responds to your March 27, 1989, letter requesting updated information on threatened or endangered species that may be affected by the proposed Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, New Lock and Connecting Channels Project. Enclosed with your letter were copies of two previous letters from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to the Corps that provided information concerning threatened or endangered species in the study area, and a map of the proposed project area.

Based on our review of the map you provided, the Service has determined that the information provided in our letter of September 17, 1989, (copy attached) is current. That letter stated that there are no endangered, threatened, or proposed species likely to reside in the project area, and no Critical Habitat in the vicinity. Therefore, no further coordination is required unless a new project site is proposed.

If you need further assistance, please call Terry Rabot (318/264-6630).

Sincerely yours,

David M. Smith
Acting Field Supervisor



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
200 EAST PASCAGOULA STREET, SUITE 300
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201

September 17, 1981

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Log no. 4-3-81-203

Mr. R.H. Schroeder, Jr.
Department of the Army
New Orleans District, Corps of
Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70167

ATTN: LMNPD-RE

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

This responds to your letter of August 26, 1981, requesting Endangered species information for the vicinity of the proposed project entitled: Mississippi River - Gulf Outlet, New Lock and Connecting Channels.

Our records indicate that there are no endangered, threatened, or proposed species likely to reside in the project areas, and there is no Critical Habitat in the vicinity. Therefore, this project, at its present location, will require no further coordination with our office.

If you require further information or if you anticipate any changes in the location or scope of this project, please contact Judy Jacobs of our staff, telephone FTS 490-4909, commercial 601/960-4909.

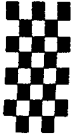
We appreciate your participation in the effort to promote the survival of endangered species.

Sincerely,

Dennis B. Jordan
acting for Gary L. Hickman
Area Manager

cc: RD, FWS, Atlanta, GA (ARD-FA/SE)
ES, FWS, Lafayette, LA
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
New Orleans, LA

Encl 1



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

OCT 17 1996

F/SEO13:JBM

Mr. Richard Boe
New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers
Department of the Army
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Boe:

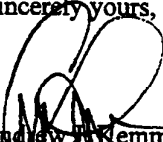
This responds to your facsimile dated October 7, 1996, concerning replacement of a lock within the alignment of the Inner Harbor Navigation Channel in New Orleans. This is a highly developed and industrialized area and all dredging would be done with cutterhead and bucket dredges.

On May 9, 1989 you submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), requesting consultation. We determined at that time that populations of endangered and threatened species under the purview of the National Marine Fisheries Service would not likely be adversely affected by the proposed action. After reviewing the project material recently provided, we have concluded that there is no new information to change the basis for our previous determination.

This concludes consultation responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA. However, consultation should be reinitiated if new information reveals impacts of the identified activity that may affect listed species or their critical habitat, a new species is listed, the identified activity is subsequently modified or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the proposed activity.

If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Coogan, Fishery Biologist, at (813) 570-5312.

Sincerely yours,


Andrew J. Klemmer
Regional Administrator



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

May 24, 1989

F/SER23:TAH:td

Mr. R. H. Schroeder, Jr.
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Dept. of the Army
New Orleans District, COE
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

This responds to your May 9, 1989, letter regarding the proposed Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, New Lock and Connecting Channels project. A Biological Assessment (BA) was transmitted pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA).

We have reviewed the BA and concur with your determination that populations of endangered/threatened species under our purview would not be adversely affected by the proposed action.

This concludes consultation responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA. However, consultation should be reinitiated if new information reveals impacts of the identified activity that may affect listed species or their critical habitat, a new species is listed, the identified activity is subsequently modified or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the proposed activity.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Terry Henwood, Fishery Biologist at FTS 826-3366.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Oravetz

Charles A. Oravetz, Chief
Protected Species Management
Branch

cc: F/PR2
F/SER1





Virginia Van Sickle
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
LOUISIANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Buddy Roemer
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

April 5, 1989

Mr. R. H. Schroeder, Jr.
Chief, Planning Division
New Orleans District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: Proposed Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet,
New Lock and Connecting Channels
Project

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

A search of the Louisiana Natural Heritage data base for threatened and endangered species and state rare species in the area of the above proposed project revealed the possible occurrence of a state rare plant, Dahoon Holly (Ilex cassine). This species was recorded 4 miles northeast of Violet, La., on marsh canal banks with Spartina, Iva, Eupatorium, and Baccharis. The record, however, is old (from 1960), and recent surveys have not been conducted by LNHP in the area. This species, which is a small tree or large shrub, is known in the state only from the coastal zone in southeast Louisiana.

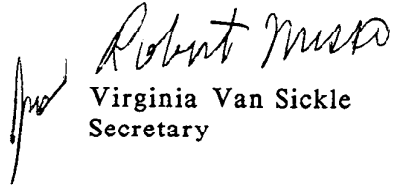
The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. While this information is available for preparation and review of environmental assessments, it is not a substitute for on-site surveys. The quantity and quality of data collected by this inventory are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In many cases, information on environmental elements is not the result of comprehensive field surveys. For this reason, the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program cannot provide an absolute definitive statement on the presence, absence, or degree of health of environmental elements in any part of Louisiana.

D-2-8

R. H. Schroeder, Jr.
April 5, 1989
Page 2

Please contact the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program section at the above address or phone (504)765-2821 if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary

VVS:NMG/plh
cc: Blue Watson, Ecological Studies
La. Natural Heritage Program